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To: Assistant Commissioner of Patents From: Brian K. Johnson  
Fax: 571-273-8300 Date: December 21, 2005  
Phone: Pages: 7  
Re: 09/496,549 - 1996P07613US05 CC:  
☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Notes: Attached please find the following documents:

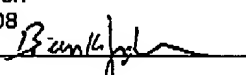
➤ Response to Official Action (6 pp);

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO. 09/496,549	FILING DATE 02/02/2000	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR George King	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1996P07613US05
via FAX to 571-272-8300 Mail Stop (none) Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450			EXAMINER Qureshi, Afsar M.
			ART UNIT 2667
			PAGE NUMBER 1

## Response To OFFICIAL ACTION

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)	
I hereby certify that this paper is, on the date shown below, being sent by:	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Deposited with the United States Postal Service on this ____ day of _____, 2003 with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office: to 571-272-8300 this 21 <sup>st</sup> day of December 2005.
Brian K. Johnson Reg. No. 46,808 Signature 	

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

A telephone interview was held on December 20, 2005 with examiner Afsar Qureshi (Joel Miller, reg. no. 29,955, on behalf of the applicant) to discuss the sole rejection based upon the McHale and Farris references under sec. 103. As mentioned, the applicant's earliest effective filing date of December 30, 1996 precedes the effective date, January 7, 1997, of the Farris reference. Therefore, the rejection of the claims cannot stand. The examiner indicated that a further search would be required. Although no specific agreement was reached, the applicant thanks the examiner for the opportunity to discuss the application. In view of the discussion and in response to the office action, the following are provided:

Responsive to the **OFFICIAL Action** mailed October 5, 2005, Applicant(s) submit the following amendments and/or responsive remarks.

Applicant hereby authorizes the PTO to charge any and all necessary fees due, or provide reimbursements of excessive fees paid, to deposit account No. 19-2179.